

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 151201Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO AMEMBASSY MADRID
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0104

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4153

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, RO
SUBJECT: NEW ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN: ION GOLIAT

1. GOR ANNOUNCED JUNE 6 APPOINTMENT OF ION GOLIAT AS
AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN, REPLACING ALEXANDRU PETRESCU WHO FIRST
HEADED ROMANIAN COMMERCIAL AND CONSULAR MISSION IN MADRID
AND THEN BECAME AMBASSADOR UPON ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN JNUARY 1977.

2. GOLIAT WAS BORN ON JANUARY 8, 1927 IN PLOIESTI. AN
ECONOMIST BY TRAINING, HE HAS WORKED SINCE AT LEASE 1964
AS ASSISTANT SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY OF THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE HAS CONCURRENTLY WORKED AS THE DEPUTY
SECRETARY OF THE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES
HEADED BY MIHNEA GHEORGHIU, WHERE HE HAS FUNCTIONED AS THE
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND THE PERSON WHO "KEPT
THE PAPERS MOVING."

3. WE HAVE HAD EXTENSIVE DEALINGS WITH GOLIAT OVER THE
YEARS, BUT ONLY IN A BUSINESS CAPACITY. WE HAVE FOUND
HIM TO BE FRIENDLY, COOPERATIVE, AND QUITE EFFICIENT FOR
A ROMANIAN CAREER BUREAUCRAT. HE HAS ALWAYS REMAINED IN
THE BACKGROUND, HOWEVER, PLAYING A SUPPORTING ROLE TO
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HIS MUCH MORE PROMINENT BOSS. BOTH AMERICANS AND ROMANIANS
WHO HAVE DEALT WITH GOLIAT CONSIDER HIM TO BE SELF-EFFACING,
CAUTIOUS, AND RELUCTANT TO MAKE DECISIONS ON HIS OWN; IN
SHORT, AN IDEAL SENIOR CLERK BUT NOT A POLICY MAKER.

4. WE ATTRIBUTE GOLIAT'S APPOINTMENT TO GHEORGHIU'S IN-
FLUENCE IN HIGH PARTY CIRCLES AND WITH CEAUSESCU PERSONALLY.

GHEORGHIU HAS UNDERTAKEERAL SPECIAL MISSIONS OF A SENSITIVE POLITICAL NATURE TO THE IBERIAN COUNTRIES (ALSO MEXICO) FOR CEAUSESCU AND HE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN GIVEN AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SHAPING ROMANIAN FOREIGN POLICY IN THIS AREA, NONE OF WHICH CORRESPONDS TO HIS ACADEMIC DUTIES AS ACADEMY CHAIRMAN. GIVEN HIS STRONG AND CONTINUING INTEREST IN SPAIN, IT IS LOGICAL THAT GHEORGHIU WOULD WANT TO HAVE HIS OWN TRUSTED ASSISTANT AS AMBASSADOR THERE.

5. GOLIAT IS MARRIED, BUT WE HAVE NOT MET HIS WIFE. HE PROBABLY READS AND SPEAKS FRENCH, AND POSSIBLY SPANISH. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MADRID MAY DEVELOP.
SIMONS

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